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THE ANDHRA PRADESH GAZETTE
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PART II - MISCELLANEOUS NOTIFICATIONS OF INTEREST TO THE PUBLIC

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NOTIFICATIONS BY HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS Etc.,

HIGH COURT OF ANDHRA PRADESH AT AMARAVATI

ROC.No.192/SO/2020.

Dated: 04-09-2021.

NOTIFICATION

HIGH COURT OF ANDHRA PRADESH - COVID-19 PANDEMIC ACROSS THE STATE - FUNCTIONING OF COURTS - NOTIFICATIONS WERE ISSUED FROM TIME TO TIME WITH REGARD TO FUNCTIONING OF THE HIGH COURT AND THE OFFICES UNDER THE ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL OF THE HIGH COURT viz., THE A. P. STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY, THE HIGH COURT LEGAL SERVICES COMMITTEE AND THE ARBITRATION AND MEDIATION CENTRE AND THE SUBORDINATE COURTS IN THE STATE OF ANDHRA PRADESH INCLUDING TRIBUNALS AND LABOUR COURTS UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE HIGH COURT - GUIDELINES FRAMED - INSTRUCTIONS - ISSUED.

- Ref : 1. High Court's Notifications in Roc No.192/SO/2020, Dated: 01.07.2020.
2. High Court's Notifications in Roc No.192/SO/2020, Dated: 13.07.2020.
3. High Court's Notification in Roc No.192/SO/2020, Dated: 16.07.2020.
4. High Court's Notification in Roc No.192/SO/2020, Dated: 21.07.2020.
5. High Court's Notifications in Roc No.192/SO/2020, Dated: 03.08.2020.
6. High Court's Notification in Roc No.192/SO/2020, Dated: 17.08.2020.
7. High Court's Notification in Roc No.192/SO/2020, Dated: 31.08.2020.

8. High Court's Notification in Roc No.192/SO/2020, Dated: 21.09.2020.
9. High Court's Notification in Roc No. 192/5O/2020, Dated: 23.09.2020.
10. High Court's Notifications in Roc No.192/SO/2020, Dated: 04.10.2020.
11. High Court's Notifications in Roc No.192/SO/2020, Dated: 03.11.2020.
12. High Court's Notification in Roc No.192/SO/2020, Dated: 23.11.2020.
13. High Court's Notification in Roc No.192/SO/2020, Dated: 14.12.2020.
14. High Court's Notification in Roc No.192/SO/2020, Dated: 21.12.2020.
15. High Court's Notification in Roc No.192/SO/2020, Dated: 07.01.2021.
16. High Court's Notifications in Roc No.192/SO/2020, Dated: 31.01.2021.
17. High Court's Notification in Roc No.192/SO/2020, Dated: 25.02.2021.
18. High Court's Notification in Roc No.192/SO/2020, Dated: 18.03.2021.
19. High Court's Notification in Roc No.192/SO/2020, Dated: 08.04.2021.
20. High Court's Notifications in Roc No.192/SO/2020, Dated: 21.04.2021.
21. High Court's Notification in Roc No.192/SO/2020, Dated: 23.04.2021.
22. High Court's Notification in Roc No.192/SO/2020, Dated: 01.05.2021.
23. High Court's Notification in Roc No.192/SO/2020, Dated: 09.07.2021.
24. High Court's Notification in Roc No.192/SO/2020, Dated: 31.07.2021.
25. High Court's Notification in Roc No. 192/SO/2020, Dated: 18.08.2021.

In view of COVID-19 pandemic across the State, in continuation of the earlier notifications under references 1 to 25 read above, as modified from time to time, the High Court of Andhra Pradesh hereby notifies that -

- (i) the existing arrangement for functioning of the High Court and Subordinate Courts shall continue till 19th September, 2021;
- (ii) physical-cum-hybrid functioning of the High Court and all Courts at ci Tribunals subordinate to it in the State of Andhra Pradesh shall commence in a limited manner on experimental basis on and from 20th September, 2021, which would be further reviewed in the first week of October, 2021, and that such functioning shall be as per the guidelines framed by the High Court (copy enclosed) and also subject to COVID-19 regulations issued by the Government of Andhra Pradesh from time to time.

Sd/-.,
REGISTRAR GENERAL.

Guidelines for the functioning of the High Court :

1. The hearing by the virtual mode shall continue. However, from 20.09.2021, parties may participate in the judicial process in physical or virtual mode, with the consent of the Bench / Judge.

Provided all mentions will be only by virtual mode.

2. The Hybrid hearing will be conducted in the following manner :
 - a) There shall be a common entry, into the High Court premises, for the advocates / parties-in-person / registered clerks, from specified gates. Specified entry and exit gates will be notified separately.
 - b) It shall be necessary for advocates / parties-in- person/registered clerks entering the Court premises to have themselves vaccinated / inoculated by at least one dose of vaccination. Only those advocates / parties-in-person/ registered clerks who have obtained a pass, from the registry, certifying the vaccination shall enter the High Court premises.
 - c) Advocates shall be requested to enter High court premises only if their cases are listed in any of the courts, keeping in view the norms of social distancing.
 - d) The entry of Advocates in Court rooms shall be regulated as per the availability of space in the Court rooms. Advocates / parties- in-person are to wait for their turn outside the Court room, by maintaining physical distancing and enter in the court room only when their cases are likely to be called out within next 5 cases in the list. Display boards shall be functional for the convenience of all concerned.
 - e) The number of advocates entering the Court hall shall be restricted to 2 (two) per litigant. Either the litigant himself/herself or his/her sole representative will be permitted into the Court for the duration of hearing of that case.
 - f) All persons entering the Court hall shall wear masks as per the COVID protocol.
 - g) The choice of appearing physically or by way of video conferencing shall be left to the advocates. In case both Counsel appear physically the physical hearing shall be taken up. In case one of the counsel chooses to appear through the virtual conference mode, the hearing shall be taken up as a hybrid hearing with the facility of both the Counsel and the learned Judge/Judges being able to see and hear each other.
 - h) The hearing of cases can be taken up by way of hybrid hearing after appropriate infrastructure is installed and after approval by the Full Court.
3. Physical filing of cases will be resumed from 20.09.2021 .
4. The guidelines for physical filing issued on 31.01.2021 shall be applicable, with the further condition that only those Advocate clerks who have been vaccinated, at least with one dose and, on that basis, have obtained a pass, from the registry, shall be allowed into the registry.
5. Vaccination of all the staff members of the High Court shall be ensured.

Sd/-,
REGISTRAR GENERAL.

Guidelines for the functioning of the Subordinate Courts :

1. The Judicial and administrative work in the Subordinate Courts including Tribunals and Labour Courts working under the control of High Court of Andhra Pradesh, shall be through physical hearing from 10.30 a.m., onwards on all working days from the respective courts or court premises.
2. The sitting arrangement in the Court halls shall be strictly in accordance with the Covid-19 protocol, stipulated by the Government. The sitting arrangement shall be supervised by the Administrative Officer / Superintendent of the concerned Court under the guidance of the Judicial Officer of the Court.
3. The call work for civil cases shall be conducted online, by way of virtual conference, and the cases kept aside for hearing that day shall be taken up by way of physical hearing or Hybrid hearing.
4. The existing protocol for criminal cases shall be continued except to the extent of physical attendance of the accused for trial.
5. The entry of Advocates and parties into the Court hall shall be regulated in the following manner :
 - a) The number of Advocates entering the Court hall shall be restricted to 2 (two) per litigant. Either the litigant himself / herself or his / her sole representative will be permitted into the Court for the duration of hearing of that case.
 - b) All persons entering the Court hall shall wear protective face covering as per the Covid protocol.
6. The principal District Judges are authorized under the Head No. 137, Administrative Expenses to purchase thermal screening Guns, Sanitizers, Mike Sets, Sanitization Guns to create a safe and healthy work atmosphere to all the Judicial Officers, Supporting Staff, Advocates, Parties and other stakeholders.
7. The Principal District Judges are at liberty to issue suitable instructions to the Judicial Officers working in their respective units, in addition to the safety measures that should be taken.
8. The Principal District Judges to take steps to ensure that all the staff of all the courts in the District are vaccinated.
9. The Principal District Judge and the respective judges of the Courts in the District shall work with the Bar associations to vaccinate all the advocates appearing in the courts in the District and the Advocates' clerks.
10. The Principal District Judges as well as the Judicial Officers shall be at liberty to organize their work in due consultation with the representatives of the Bar.

11. Where any Advocate requests for virtual hearing, the Presiding Officer can permit such Advocate to appear through a virtual hearing while the Advocate on the other side can be physically present in Court by way of physical hearing.
12. 100% attendance of the staff shall be undertaken.
13. Wherever the accused are in custody, they can be produced before the Court via video linkage without insisting for their physical presence in the Court.

Sd/-.,
REGISTRAR GENERAL.

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